

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2199

FOR S/P THORNTON FROM SIMONS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJ: BERKELEY ORIENTALISTS. MEETING

REF: STATE 11365

1. REFTEL MESSAGE WAS CARRIED TO GANKOVSKIY JAN 21, AND HE PROMISED TO RUSH TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMY TO PUSH MATTER ALONG. HIS OWN EXPLANATION OF TARDINESS WAS THAT TRAVEL FOR TEN-MAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED IN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE'S PLAN, SO HE HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT SINCE.

2. AT DINNER FEB 10 HE OFFERED UPDATE. TEN-MAN DELEGATION HAD INDEED BEEN WRITTEN INTO PLAN, BUT IN THE MEANTIME SOMEONE HAD GOTTEN TO GAFUROV WITH IDEA OF COMBINING BERKELEY MEETING WITH MEXICO CITY CONGRESS, MAINLY, IT APPEARED, TO SAVE MONEY. GANKOVSKIY SAID HE HIMSELF THOUGHT THIS WAS A TERRIBLE IDEA, FIRST BECAUSE IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY "REAL SCHOLARS" WOULD BE ON SOVIET MEXICO CITY DELEGATION, SECOND BECAUSE IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY OF THE "REAL SCHOLARS" INTERESTED IN CONTEMPORARY ASIAN PROBLEMS WILL BE INTERESTED IN GOING TO BERKELEY. HE HAD RAISED THE PROBLEM AT THE CC SCIENCE DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK, AND HIS INTERLOCUTORS HAD AGREED COMPLETELY. HOWEVER, THEY HAD TOLD HIM TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CONVINCE GAFUROV (RATHER THAN DOING IT THEMSELVES), AND HE WAS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN FORMULATING APPROACH (TO VERY "EASTERN" MAN) WHICH PROMISED TO BE EFFECTIVE. HE WOULD LET US KNOW AS SOON

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AS HE COULD. HE NOTED THAT ANYONE WHO ASCRIBED DELAY

TO PARTY CONGRESS OR LARGER POLITICAL ISSUES HAD TO BE
DRUNK WHEN HE DID IT.

3. IF IT IS ANY CONSOLATION (AND ANY USE TO ROSE),
GANKOVSKIY WAS MORE DEFINITE ON SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF
DELEGATION, SINCE IT IS IN PLAN AND NOT AT ISSUE WITH
GAFUROV: 10-12 PEOPLE, WITH 8-10 DRAWN FROM ORIENTAL
INSTITUTE (WHICH STILL CARRIES EAST ASIAN SPECIALISTS)
AND REST FROM FAR EAST INSTITUTE, BROKEN INTO ABOUT TWO
EACH ON NEAR EAST (ARAB WORLD), MIDDLE EAST (TURKEY-
IRAN-AFGHANISTAN), SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND FAR
EAST.
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